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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Korea/USSR

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SUBJECT Trade Between North Korea and the USSR

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- 1. Of the total trade credit loam from the USSR to North Korea, 684,210,000 rubles, 213,000,000 rubles was to be transferred to North Korea between July 1949 and 31 July 1950. By the end of April 1950, North Korea had received 200,000,000 rubles.
- 2. Approximately 12,000 bags of rice were brought from the warehouse at Sonkyo-ri (approximately 125-45, 38-50) where government polished rice is stored, to the port of Najin-dong (130-15, 42-10). On 30 April 1950, the rice was still at the port awaiting shipment to the USSR.
- 3. In accordance with instructions from the North Korean authorities, the People's Committee of Kangso (125-28, 38-58) County (Gun), South Pyongan, forced the villagers to give up two hundred cows for shipment to the USSR. The cattle were removed in spring 1949 and the people were promised that after one month they would receive the same number of horses in exchange. The horses did not appear, however, and cultivation was greatly handicapped. At the end of July 1949, the People's Committee announced that since some unstated difficulty in the USSR had prevented the importation of the horses as promised, the owners of the cows would be paid for their animals in cash. The owners were not satisfied, however, since the payment offered then was less than a fourth of the market price of cattle during the month of the cows' removal. Although the owners protested, the People's Committee flatly refused any additional compensation, claiming that the entire transaction was carried on at government order.

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This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 16 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.

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